

THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A striking device comprising:

a handle having an end;

a rail structure carried by the end of the handle;

a head having a striking surface and a base;

a rail receiving structure carried by the base and receiving the rail structure for reciprocating linear motion of the head between a forward position and a rearward position; and

a biasing structure biasing the head into the forward position.

2. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the rail structure includes a pair of rail tabs fixedly attached to the end of the handle at opposite sides thereof.

3. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the rail structure includes a pair of rail clamps

each including a generally U-shaped vertical slot which encompasses approximately one-half of the end of the handle and which are fixedly attached to opposite sides thereof.

4. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the rail receiving structure includes opposed elongated slide slots formed on opposite sides of the base receiving the rails tabs.

5. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biasing structure includes:

the head having an opening formed therein, defined by a forward surface and a rearward surface;

a tang extending longitudinally from the end of the handle into the opening; and

a compression spring carried between the tang and the forward surface of the head, the spring biasing the forward surface of the head away from the tang and positioning the tang proximate the rearward surface of the head.

6. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the tang thickens from a flattened end to the end of the handle.

7. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the flattened end of the tang includes a forwardly directed projection and the forward surface of the opening having a rearwardly directed projection, the compression spring receiving the forwardly directed projection and the rearwardly directed projection in opposing ends thereof.

8. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the tang is integrally formed with the handle.

9. (Currently Amended) A striking device comprising:

a handle having an end;

a rail structure carried by the end of the handle;

a head having a striking surface and a base
perpendicular to the striking surface;

an opening formed in the head defined by an inner
surface having a forward surface and a rearward surface;

a rail receiving structure carried by the base and
receiving the rail structure for reciprocating linear motion
of the head between a forward position and a rearward
position;

a tang extending longitudinally from the end of the
handle into the opening of the head; and

a compression spring carried between the tang and the
forward surface of the head, the spring biasing the forward
surface of the head away from the tang and positioning the
tang proximate the rearward surface of the head.

10. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the rail structure includes a pair of rail tabs fixedly attached to the end of the handle at opposite sides thereof.

11. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the rail structure includes a pair of rail clamps each including a generally U-shaped vertical slot which encompasses approximately one-half of the end of the handle and which are fixedly attached to opposite sides thereof.

12. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the rail receiving structure includes opposed elongated slide slots formed on opposite sides of the base receiving the rails tabs.

13. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the tang thickens from a flattened end to the end of the handle.

14. (Original) A striking device as claimed in claim 13 wherein the flattened end of the tang includes a forwardly directed projection and the forward surface of the opening

having a rearwardly directed projection, the compression spring receiving the forwardly directed projection and the rearwardly directed projection in opposing ends thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A striking device comprising:

a handle having an end;

a pair of rail tabs fixedly attached to the end of the handle at opposite sides thereof;

a head having a striking surface and a base;

opposed elongated slide slots formed on opposite sides of the base, the rail tabs received therein to facilitate a reciprocating linear motion of the head between a forward position and a rearward position; and

a biasing structure biasing the head into the forward position including the head having an opening formed therein, defined by a forward surface and a rearward surface, a tang extending longitudinally from the end of the handle into the opening, and a compression spring carried between the tang and the forward surface of the head, the spring biasing the forward surface of the head away from the tang and positioning the tang proximate the rearward surface of the head.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A striking device as claimed in claim ~~17~~ 15 wherein the tang thickens from a flattened end to the end of the handle.

19. A striking device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the flattened end of the tang includes a forwardly directed projection and the forward surface of the opening having a rearwardly directed projection, the compression spring receiving the forwardly directed projection and the rearwardly directed projection in opposing ends thereof.